



## ***2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS***

At its January 18 and March 8 meetings, the Coastal Conservancy supported 35 projects along California's coast and around San Francisco Bay with awards totaling \$15 million. The Conservancy's support for these projects is leveraging an equal amount of funding from the federal and local governments and private organizations.

### ***For the length of California's coast the Conservancy***

- approved the use of \$4.2 million for data collection, research, monitoring, and other actions to improve California's management of marine fish populations and habitats. The funding will help implement the State's **Marine Life Protection Act** and **Marine Life Management Act** and will include grants to the California Department of Fish and Game and the Pacific Coast Marine Fisheries Commission. The funding was available through the State Ocean Protection Council. (January)
- provided \$2 million, available from the Ocean Protection Council, to Environmental Defense for seed capitalization of the **California Fisheries Fund**, a planned source of loans for California fishing communities, organizations, and businesses to assist with a transition to more environmentally and economically sustainable fishing practices. An ED business plan anticipates that this \$2 million investment could be leveraged into a much larger loan fund using public and private sources of capital. (March)
- provided \$1 million, available from the Ocean Protection Council, to the **California Sea Grant Program** and **USC Sea Grant Program** to solicit and fund scientific research projects for effective management of ocean resources. (March)
- awarded a \$244,000 grant, available from the Ocean Protection Council, to the Reef Check Foundation to expand the **Reef Check California** program's community-based network of certified volunteer SCUBA divers. The purpose of the program is to collect and disseminate monitoring information on nearshore marine life and habitats, and expansion of the program will support monitoring of California's growing system of Marine Protected Areas. (March)
- granted \$90,000 to the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute to prepare a **study of existing state funding expenditures** and identify funding gaps for California coastal and ocean restoration programs and projects. (January)

## ***South Coast***

### ***For the length of the South Coast the Conservancy***

- provided \$650,000 to Environment Now to continue its management of the **Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project's** Local Assistance Program. The Program supports local organizations engaged in wetlands protection and restoration through technical assistance, regional coordination, and public outreach. (January)
- granted \$160,000 to Trout Unlimited to begin implementing the recommendations of its Conservation Strategy Plan for managing exotic animals and plants in the **San Mateo Creek** watershed in San Diego, Orange, and Riverside counties. Using earlier funding from the Conservancy, Trout Unlimited spent over four years developing its plan, which aims to restore populations of native steelhead trout and other fish in the creek and its tributaries. (March)

### ***For San Diego County the Conservancy***

- granted \$313,000 to Accessible San Diego to provide equipment and training to improve **beach access for persons with disabilities** at Silver Strand State Beach, Coronado City Beach, and Oceanside City Beach. As part of the program, motorized wheelchairs that can operate on sand will be made available free-of-charge to the public. (January)
- provided \$114,000 to the San Diego Watermen's Association to collect and manage scientific data on the **San Diego sea urchin fishery** to encourage stewardship by the local fishing community, move the fishery toward long-term sustainability, and improve market value for fishermen. (January)

### ***For Orange County the Conservancy***

- provided \$3,760,000 to the City of Laguna Beach for its purchase of three properties totaling 137 acres for addition to **Laguna Coast Wilderness Park**. The properties are among several acquisitions funded by the Conservancy since 2002 to create a new network of trails and protect scenic wildlife habitat. (January and March)
- granted \$25,000 to Orange County Coastkeeper to maintain the Conservancy's public access easement at Portofino Cove in **Huntington Harbour**. The easement allows the public to use a sidewalk that runs along the Harbour's main channel between Seabridge Park and a public parking lot. (January)

### ***For Los Angeles County the Conservancy***

- provided \$30,000 to the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority to prepare a feasibility analysis for restoration of a five-acre parcel within the Long Beach portion of the **Los Cerritos Wetlands**. The Conservancy has been working with local communities and conservation organizations for more than 20 years to purchase and restore wetlands in

the area, and in 2006 paid for the purchase of 66 acres of wetlands and other wildlife habitat near the mouth of the San Gabriel River. (January)

- granted \$50,000 to Community Conservancy International to complete its **Green Solutions Report**, which will identify projects to treat urban storm water through the creation of parks, open space, and habitat areas. The report focuses on converting pavement to pervious surfaces that would allow soil and plants to filter water and pollutants. The planning area covers all Los Angeles county watersheds that drain to the coast. (March)

### ***Central Coast***

#### ***For San Luis Obispo County the Conservancy***

- provided \$75,000 to the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County to prepare an enhancement plan for the watershed of **Santa Rosa Creek**. The creek is among the premier fisheries for southern steelhead trout, and its largely undeveloped watershed offers unique opportunities for improving the fish's habitat. (March)

#### ***For Monterey County the Conservancy***

- provided \$3.5 million to the Big Sur Land Trust for its purchase of two properties totaling about eight acres for the **Carmel River Parkway**. The properties contain buildings that could be converted to educational centers plus other facilities and sites for visitor services. Long-term plans for the Parkway call for protection and restoration of lands within the river's ecosystem, development of educational facilities, and installation of a trail network connected to neighboring public lands. (January)
- granted \$50,000 to Moss Landing Marine Laboratories to prepare a study for development of a sustainable fishing off-loading and processing facility in **Moss Landing Harbor**, the largest commercial fishing port on the Central Coast. The study aims to support the local fishing industry while helping to protect populations of commercial fishes. (March)

#### ***For San Mateo County the Conservancy***

- provided \$305,000 to California State Parks for visitor-serving improvements at **Pigeon Point Historic Light Station State Park**. The funding will pay for relocation and expansion of the station's parking lot, installation of a public restroom, construction of trails overlooking the ocean, and landscaping to create a scenic gateway for the majestic lighthouse and neighboring parklands. (January)

## ***San Francisco Bay Area***

### ***For the Greater San Francisco Bay Area the Conservancy***

- made \$2.2 million available to continue a long-term aggressive effort to stem the spread of **invasive *Spartina***, a type of fast-growing cordgrass that presents a serious threat to native wildlife habitat. The Conservancy has been working since 1999 to eradicate the noxious weed, which is now considered to be under control. \$1.2 million of the funding is coming from the State Wildlife Conservation Board. (March)
- granted \$100,000 to Northern California Public Broadcasting, Inc. for production of a **television documentary** about the history and development of San Francisco Bay. The funding is available from the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and follows \$100,000 provided by the Conservancy in 2006. (March)
- granted \$15,000 to Bay Nature Institute to produce a 16-page supplement for *Bay Nature* magazine on habitat restoration and public access in the **San Pablo Baylands** region of the North Bay. The supplement is planned for inclusion in the July-September 2007 issue of the magazine, and 10,000 additional copies will be available for distribution by restoration partners and other interested organizations. (March)

### ***For San Francisco the Conservancy***

- provided \$65,000 to Ecotrust, a conservation and economic development organization working with the San Francisco Crab Boat Owners Association, to prepare a feasibility study for creation of a wholesale and retail seafood market at **Fisherman's Wharf**. The market would be designed to support the local fishing industry and ecologically sustainable fishing practices. If it determines that the market is feasible, Ecotrust will follow up with preparation of a business plan. (March)

### ***For Alameda County the Conservancy***

- granted \$35,000 to the nonprofit organization Urban Ecology to plan and prepare engineering drawings for a 12-mile section between Oakland and Hayward of the **East Bay Greenway**, a proposed public access and recreational corridor running along the BART right-of-way. The grant follows \$115,000 provided by the Conservancy for the project in 2006. Plans call for the Greenway eventually to run for 30 miles between Oakland and Fremont. (March)

### ***For Napa County the Conservancy***

- provided \$150,000 to Berryessa Trails and Conservation to design 135 miles of the proposed 150-mile **Lake Berryessa Shoreline Trail**. The trail is a key component of plans to expand opportunities for public recreation in the area. (January)
- granted \$60,000 to the County to prepare a feasibility study for the development of more than three miles of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, a connector trail, and a staging area on the City of Napa's 2,200-acre **Milliken Watershed** lands, 15 minutes from

downtown Napa. Plans for the Ridge Trail in this location will set the stage for additional trail segments to the north and south. (January)

- made \$187,000 available for the development of design documents and permit applications for restoration of five ponds totaling 1,870 acres in the **Napa River Salt Marsh**. This will be the second phase in the restoration of the 10,000-acre marshlands purchased by the State in 1994. (March)

*For **Bayside and Inland Sonoma County** the Conservancy*

- granted \$500,000 to the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District to construct 2.4 miles of trail, including a creek crossing, two staging areas, and an overlook, in the **Laguna de Santa Rosa**. The trail will allow hikers, bikers, and equestrians to experience the rich biological diversity and outstanding scenic features of the area without risk to wildlife habitat or neighboring farms. The trail will be the first phase of 11-miles of new trails planned for the Laguna. (January)

*For **Bayside and Inland Marin County** the Conservancy*

- accepted, at no cost, an 18-acre property from the Navy for inclusion in the **Hamilton Wetlands** restoration project at the former Hamilton Army Airfield in Novato. The wetlands adjoin the Conservancy's Bel Marin Keys property, and their combined restoration will result in over 2,500 acres of high-quality tidal marsh and seasonal wetlands habitats for wildlife. The Conservancy and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are the principal partners in the restoration. (March)

***North Coast***

*For the **length of the North Coast** the Conservancy*

- made a \$100,000 grant from the Sonoma County Water Agency available to the Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration for the **Eel River Salmonid Resources Project**, a database of information for projects to restore populations of salmon and trout throughout the Eel River watershed in Humboldt, Trinity, Mendocino, and Lake counties. The Agency's funding follows \$100,000 from the Conservancy awarded for the project in 2006. (January)
- provided \$140,000 for the University of California's Sea Grant College Program to conduct a socioeconomic study of **North Coast fisheries** in Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte counties. The information learned about the communities of fishermen and the economics of their industry will be combined with information from studies on fish stocks and the natural environment to help with decisions about fisheries management. (March)

*For the **Coastside of Sonoma County** the Conservancy*

- provided \$750,000 to the Harmony Union School District for construction of an environmental education center at **Salmon Creek School**. The center will include an auditorium, cafeteria, and native gardens, and will accommodate up to 1,500 visiting students along with the 400-plus students enrolled at the school. The school had earlier received \$300,000 from the Conservancy to develop its environmental education program. (January)
- provided \$610,000 to the Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District to reduce erosion, manage sediment and storm flows, and improve steelhead and historic coho salmon habitat on nine privately owned ranches in the watershed of **Salmon Creek**. The work is being done in partnership with the property owners, who are contributing labor, equipment, and supplies. (March)
- granted \$23,000 to the Sonoma Land Trust to develop a conservation plan for a nine-square-mile area north of Cazadero known as the **Cedars** and for costs to negotiate the possible purchase of a 520-acre property within the area. The Cedars contains a unique landscape characterized by large expanses of serpentine rock that supports an unusual variety of plants and wildlife. In preparing the plan, the Land Trust will consult with conservation organizations, scientists, and local landowners. (March)

*For **Mendocino County** the Conservancy*

- provided \$135,000 to the Coastal Land Trust for work at **Seaside Beach**, about 10 miles north of Fort Bragg, including the design of improvements to parking and rest facilities and protection and improvement of wildlife habitats. A new rock barrier will protect nesting sites of the endangered snowy plover from vehicles, new fencing will keep cattle from wetlands, and invasive vegetation will be replaced with plants native to the area. (January)

*For **Humboldt County** the Conservancy*

- provided \$300,000 to Humboldt County to prepare an enhancement plan for the watershed of the **Salt River**, a tributary to the Eel River Estuary. Primary goals of the plan are to reduce erosion in the river's upper watershed, reduce and better manage flooding in the estuary, and improve habitat for trout and salmon throughout the watershed. The plan will consider strategic use of the 450-acre Riverside Ranch, located within the estuary and planned for purchase by the Department of Fish and Game. (March)